

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Disposal of Cannery Wastes

The Research Laboratory receives occasional enquiries from canners for suggestions with regard to a practicable method of disposing of liquid waste, particularly from corn, pea, and tomato canneries. Some plants are so located that it is necessary to make special provisions for this.

Some canners have developed methods which they have found to be successful under conditions existing at their plants, and which are both economical and efficient. Probably these same methods, or modifications of them, would be of value to others.

The Research Laboratory would like to extend the information it has on this subject as much as practicable, and will greatly appreciate it if every member who has adopted some special procedure that answers his purposes will write the Laboratory, giving a description of his method.

Another Million Car Week

For four consecutive weeks loadings of revenue freight have exceeded a million cars, the total for the week ended August 8 being 1,051,611 cars, a gain of 8,548 over the preceding week, and an increase of 110,204 cars over the corresponding week last year.

Study of Canning and Distribution Costs

The National Canners Association has been advised by Mr. S. H. DeVault, Professor of Agricultural Economics in the University of Maryland, that the College of Agriculture is undertaking a thorough study of the cost of production, manufacture and distribution of canned foods in Maryland.

Action on Proposed Freight Advances Deferred

The Western Classification Committee has decided to withhold action on its proposal asking for the advance of L. C. L. rating on syrup, molasses, fish, meats, and pickles in tin, from fourth to third class; on fruit and table sauces in glass and earthenware from third to second class; and on syrup, molasses and meat in glass and earthenware, from fourth to second class. This proposal was assigned for hearing before the Consolidated Classification Committee at Atlantic City, July 14 and at Chicago, July 21. Chairman E. S. DePass of the Association's Traffic Committee attended both these hearings and protested against any advance in these ratings.

The Western Classification Committee has not indicated when the proposals will again be pressed, but it is expected that consideration will be deferred until after the first of the year.

Argentina to Enforce Food Analysis Regulations

The Argentine Federal authorities intend to enforce strictly the decree of March 16 requiring the analysis of all foodstuffs imported, according to reports to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The Buenos Aires Municipal authorities will accept this analysis as final in place of that which they formerly conducted, whenever products were suspected of containing noxious ingredients.

The Argentine pure-food law requires that labels, catalogues, invoices, etc., accurately describe the foodstuffs and be in no way misleading to the public. Foodstuffs must contain no ingredients considered harmful to the health and containers must likewise conform to certain regulations safeguarding public health.

Details in regard to the pure-food laws of Argentina may be obtained from the Division of Foreign Tariffs, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Report Issued on Simplification of Box Board Thicknesses

The Division of Simplified Practice of the Department of Commerce has issued a summary report of the general conference on box board thicknesses held in New York City, July 29. The report covers the history of the project, the proceedings of the general conference, the personnel of the standing committee and a list of those attending the conference. The simplification program proposed will be effective October 1. Copies of the report can be obtained by writing to the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

New Canned Food Regulations Authorized in Canada

The Canadian Meat and Canned Foods Act has been amended by giving authority to the Governor in Council to prescribe by regulations the containers in which canned fruits and vegetables may be packed and requiring that the containers must contain the quality, quantity or weight prescribed by these regulations. The regulations under this amendment have not yet been issued. They will be published by the U. S. Department of Commerce when issued.

Ask Reopening of Canned-Food Rating Case

An application has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission on behalf of the National Cannery Association, the National Food Packers Traffic Association, and the Chicago Association of Commerce, for the reopening of the case involving the classification ratings on certain canned goods in Official Classification Territory. Under the Commission's decision in this case, issued May 11, the L. C. L. rating on fruit, fish, jelly, jams, etc., in cans was advanced from Rule 26 to 3rd class.

Navy in Market for Tomatoes and Spinach

The Navy Department is asking for bids to be opened September 8 on 4,120,000 pounds of canned tomatoes (Schedule 4270), and for 160,000 pounds of canned spinach (Schedule 4271) to be opened September 15. Copies of schedules for submitting bids can be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Marine Corps Ask Bids on Corn

The U. S. Marine Corps is asking for bids, to be opened September 21, on 4,300 cases of No. 2 cans sweet corn; 1,100 cases to be delivered at Port Royal, S. C.; 1,800 cases at Quantico, Va.; and 1,400 cases at Philadelphia. Copies of Schedule No. 113 on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster, U. S. M. C., Room 3207 Navy Building, Washington, D. C.

Commerce Department Publishes Market Surveys

"Commercial Survey of the Philadelphia Marketing Area" is the title of a 130-page bulletin just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The survey was conducted by J. Frederic Dewhurst, Chief of the Statistical Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and is the first of a series designed to furnish a practical basis upon which executives can determine sales plans. All statistics of value relating to the

Philadelphia territory were gathered, compiled and analyzed, and in addition field work was conducted to demonstrate the more intangible trends of consumer buying habits.

The Bureau has also issued a bulletin on "Domestic Market Possibilities for Sales of Paints and Varnishes," which is a study of marketing problems and distribution of market by states. In the foreword to this bulletin it is pointed out: "While the factors considered in the market analysis have been chosen as particularly applicable to paint and varnish, many of them are fundamental elements which influence the extent of the demand for a wide range of commodities, so it is believed that the method of procedure and interpretation of results will be of general interest".

Copies of these surveys can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington. The former costs 20 cents; the latter 5 cents.

A Canned Foods Week in England

Arranged by the grocery section of the Bromley Chamber of Commerce, a Canned Foods Week has been held in Bromley this week, says "The Grocer", a British trade journal, in its issue of July 18. Fourteen entries were received for the window-dressing competition, in which the judges allocated points for arresting power, pleasing power, economy of effort, use and arrangements of tickets, selling power and educational value.

"Excellent Work Done By Your Investigators"

The secretary of a wholesale grocers association writes that a wholesale grocer who showed him the report of an investigation of alleged food poisoning, made by the N. C. A. was "very much impressed by the thoroughness of your report, and I want to congratulate you on the excellent work done by your investigators. Naturally, he feels that this kind of unfavorable and unwarranted publicity is a severe detriment to the canned food business and I am sure you will agree with him as I do."

The writer then asked if the Association, when it finds such newspaper accounts unfounded, communicates with the paper and tries to obtain a retraction. This is the regular practice of the National Canners Association and while published corrections are not always secured, placing the facts before the newspaper helps to prevent a repetition of the offense. The attitude of most editors in this respect is shown by the reply of a western paper to a letter calling his attention to an inaccurate dispatch regarding canned foods. He wrote: "We are checking up this matter, and will endeavor to prevent a future repetition."